

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/707,006

Examiner

Allen C. Ho

Applicant(s)

IKHLEF, ABDELAZIZ

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to RCE filed on 30 June 2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-5 and 7-20.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☒ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☒ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1:312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Thomas E. Donohue (Reg. No. 44,660) on 01 August 2006.

The application has been amended as follows:

- (1) Paragraph [0013] has been deleted.
 - (2) Paragraph [0014], line 1, "7" has been replaced by --6--.
2. The following changes to the drawings have been approved by the examiner and agreed upon by applicant: reference number 54 has been added to the drawings. In order to avoid abandonment of the application, applicant must make these above agreed upon drawing changes.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 1-5 and 7-20 are allowed.
4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

With regard to claims 1-5 and 7-12, the prior art discloses a detector assembly that comprises a collimator assembly, the collimator assembly comprising: a first collimator segment having a first left end and a first right end, the first collimator segment comprising a plurality of x-ray blocking first segment longitudinal walls having a first segment depth, each of the plurality of first segment longitudinal walls including a first interlocking protrusion; a second collimator

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segment having a second left end and a second right end, the second collimator segment comprising a plurality of x-ray blocking second segment longitudinal walls having a second segment depth, each of the plurality of second segment longitudinal walls including a second interlocking protrusion, each of the second interlocking protrusions engaging one of the first interlocking protrusions to form a continuous sidewall segment; and a plurality of first latitudinal segments positioned between each of the plurality of first longitudinal walls such that a plurality of first collimator chambers is formed, each of the first collimator chambers having a first collimator width. However, the prior art fails to teach or fairly suggest a first interlocking protrusion that comprises less than an entire portion of the first segment depth, and a second interlocking protrusion that comprises less than an entire portion of the second segment depth, as claimed.

With regard to claims 13-18, the prior art discloses a collimator assembly segment that comprises a first collimator segment having a first left end and a first right end, the first collimator segment comprising: a plurality of x-ray blocking first segment longitudinal walls having a first segment depth, each of the plurality of first segment longitudinal walls including a first interlocking protrusion; and a plurality of first latitudinal segments positioned between each of the plurality of first longitudinal walls such that a plurality of first collimator chambers is formed, each of the first collimator chambers having a first collimator width. However, the prior art fails to teach or fairly suggest a first interlocking protrusion that comprises less than an entire portion of the first segment depth as claimed.

With regard to claims 19 and 20, the prior art discloses a method of manufacturing a detector assembly with extended longitudinal depth, the method comprises: casting a first

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collimator segment comprising a plurality of first segment longitudinal walls having a first segment depth, each of the plurality of first segment longitudinal walls including a first interlocking protrusion; casting a second collimator segment comprising a plurality of second segment longitudinal walls having a second segment depth, each of the plurality of second segment longitudinal walls including a second interlocking protrusion; and engaging each of the second interlocking protrusions with one of the first interlocking protrusions to form a plurality of continuous sidewall segments. However, the prior art fails to teach or fairly suggest a first interlocking protrusion that comprises less than an entire portion of the first segment depth, and a second interlocking protrusion that comprises less than an entire portion of the second segment depth, as claimed.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments filed 05 June 2006 with respect to the specification have been fully considered and are persuasive. The objections of the specification have been withdrawn.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Allen C. Ho whose telephone number is (571) 272-2491. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday from 8:00 am - 5:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Edward J. Glick can be reached on (571) 272-2490. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Allen C. Ho

Allen C. Ho, Ph.D.
Primary Examiner
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01 August 2006